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GREAT BRITAIN

I. Status and Strength of the Communist Party

The Communist Party of Great Britain (hereafter abbreviated BCP) has lost all representation in Parliament, has persistently failed to win local government elections, and has been excluded from Labor Party affiliation. As individual trade unionists, Communists have won and sought to exploit relatively important positions in such unions as the National Union of Mineworkers, Amalgamated Engineers, Electrical Trades Union, National Union of Railwaymen, as well as their positions as shop stewards in the factories. Communist influence has been seriously curtailed by a sustained anti-Communist campaign on the part of the Trades Union Congress and more recently by the bitter anti-Communist reaction among British trade unionists and intellectuals as a result of the de-Stalinization campaign and Russian intervention in Hungary. Party membership has dropped 7,000 (about 20 per cent) in the past year, and the prospects of a successful working class "unity" drive such as the Communists constantly advocate are more remote than ever. The "flight of the intellectuals" and the aging of the Party as a result of the failures of the Young Communist League are handicapping recruitment in those sectors of society which have traditionally served as potential sources of membership. The BCP's claimed membership in June 1957 was about 27,000.

II. Party Units Responsible for Sabotage, Assassination, Kidnapping or Terrorist Missions

No other information is available pertinent to such groups.

III. Sabotage Training Given within Great Britain

No information is available to show that British Communists are being trained in Great Britain for future CP-sponsored sabotage.

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IV. **Sabotage Training Given for British Communists in Communist Bloc Countries**

No information is available which shows that British Communists are being trained in Communist Bloc countries for future sabotage missions sponsored by the Communist Party of Great Britain.

V. **Sabotage, Assassination, Kidnapping, Terrorist Missions and Targets**

a. **U.S. and/or U.S. Allies Personnel, Installations**

Recent Communist-sponsored demonstrations against the H-bomb and against the USAF bases in Great Britain would indicate that these could be considered prime targets for future BCP sabotage plans.

b. **Other Sabotage Targets**

A dockworkers strike which was organized by the World Federation of Trade Unions (see Introduction) broke out in England and lasted four weeks during the summer of 1949. Three Communists of foreign nationality, who had attended a WFTU meeting in Marseille, then had gone to Great Britain to participate in the strike, were deported by the British government. Two of the Communists were citizens of the United States and one a citizen of The Netherlands. The British government had put troops into service as stevedores and had acquired emergency power to deal with the strike. WFTU's capability to rouse significant support among British dockworkers in 1949 probably indicates that British ports are to be considered as particularly sensitive areas for future Communist sabotage.

VI. **Evidence of Direction and Support from the USSR, China or Other Communist Country**

A Cominform Journal article of December 1948 reminded the Communist parties of France, Italy and

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Great Britain of their obligations to help safeguard national independence by fighting United States assistance. As a result of CPSU's call for violence and aggression, the Communist Party of Great Britain complied by involving itself in action of this nature in 1949.

IX. Estimate of Threat from Local Communist Party Sabotage, Terrorism, etc.

In view of the BCP's lack of popular support its sabotage potential would appear to be limited to specific targets in areas to which Communists have access through employment. Identification of these specific targets could probably be determined by a more thorough investigation of centers of Communist strength and penetration.

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